CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1597*
26 October 1999

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FRENCH AND SPANISH ONLY

LETTER DATED 8 OCTOBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A STATEMENT MADE BY MR. V.O. RAKHMANIN, DIRECTOR OF THE INFORMATION AND PRESS DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION 1/

I have the honour to transmit a statement made by Mr. V.O. Rakhmanin, Director of the Information and Press Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, at a press briefing on 5 October 1999.

We would be grateful if this statement could be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed among the delegations of all member States of the Conference and non-member States of the CD participating in the work of the Conference.

(Signed): V. SIDOROV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

1/ This document has been issued and circulated as a General Assembly document (A/C.1/54/3).

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Annex

Statement issued on 5 October 1999 by the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

As has been reported, on 2 October 1999 the United States of America conducted, as part of its programme to create a national anti-missile defence system, a flight test of the Minuteman anti-missile rocket using a dummy warhead. This test is a step that runs counter to the 1972 Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems (the ABM Treaty), article 1 of which prohibits even the provision of a base for such a defence.

Such actions by the United States of America in reality tend to undermine the key provisions of the aforementioned Treaty, with all the negative consequences this entails, responsibility for which will lie with the United States.

In fact, the system of international arms control treaties and agreements, the regime for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the whole system of strategic stability that has been put in place are threatened.

The Russian Federation insists on the preservation and enhancement of the effectiveness of the ABM Treaty as the most important element for ensuring strategic stability in the world and furthering the process of nuclear disarmament. It is thus in the interest of the entire international community resolutely to support this agreement which is so vital to international security.

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